

# Solution for Life



 Dear Friends,

Volume 19 Issue 2  
Summer 2022

*I'm sitting at my desk thinking about all that has unfolded in our world since the last time we sent out a newsletter. The world economy has changed; food, gas, and resources overall have escalated in cost or availability; our schools are experiencing more violence than ever before. We pray for comfort for the families in Texas who have lost their beautiful children and loved ones. The war in the Ukraine has continued to disrupt people's lives and the losses related to war are overwhelming. We want to focus on Jesus' love, His hope, His wisdom, and His desire for us to be in relationship with Him. God is still God, and the things that cause us to pause and even be weary are not surprising to Him. He promises to be with us in whatever we face. We pray you will be encouraged as you read because we serve an awesome Savior.*

*Blessings, Jessie*

---

## Overwhelmed By God's Love | by Daniel Westlund

I had not been feeling well for about 10 days. Finally, Jessie said, "You should go see your doctor," which I did on December 21, 2021. Sitting in his office, he asked me if he could call an ambulance to take me to the hospital emergency room. I told him Jessie would take me. My oxygen level had fallen into the 80s and by the time I got to hospital it had fallen to 81.

I was diagnosed with acute respiratory failure with Covid Pneumonia. The scan showed my lungs were beginning to fail, and I was put on five liters of oxygen and taken to the Covid floor. I remember the nurse asking me if I wanted to be resuscitated if I went into respiratory failure. I said I would like to live, but I do not want to be put on a respirator.

On the fifth day on the Covid floor, the hospital doctor lowered my oxygen to 4 liters to see how I would respond. That night my son, Stephen, who heard the nurse say, "Mr. Westlund, you may not leave the hospital," was praying and opened his Bible to Psalm 91. This is a Psalm Jessie's grandmother gave to her as a child. Stephen got on his knees and lifted his Bible up over his head and placed

his hands on the words of the Psalm and pleaded with God for my life and Jessie's to be spared. He asked God not to take us home yet. The next day the Holy Spirit directed him to get a bottle of oil and come and anoint me for healing. Having been raised in a minister's home where, on a regular basis in our services, I followed what the Bible teaches about anointing the sick for healing from James 5:14-15, Stephen understood what the Lord was asking him to do. When he came to my room that day, he went through the protocol required by the hospital to come to the Covid floor and my room. He knelt next to me and anointed me with oil, praying for healing of my body. The next morning, I did not need oxygen to support my life. My oxygen level remained at 93-95. After two days, I was discharged from the hospital. I still was very weak. I had lost 26 pounds and began an eight-week recovery period to regain my strength. As I write this article, I am praising God for His strength to love people for His Kingdom and be able to do chores around the house. Last weekend I did yard work and lifted ten 40-pound bags of mulch and put it in our garden. I am thankful for God's healing grace.

continued on page 2

### Inside this issue

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Death is Just the Beginning | 2 |
| Friend of God               | 3 |
| Watch & Pray                | 4 |
| Bulletin Board              | 4 |
| Stay Tuned In               | 4 |

---

### CONTACT US AT:

P.O. Box 3510  
Carmel, Indiana  
46082-3510  
Phone: 371-319-5838  
email: [sfl@solutionforlife.org](mailto:sfl@solutionforlife.org)  
[www.solutionforlife.org](http://www.solutionforlife.org)

# Solution for growth

## Death is Just the Beginning | by Stephen Westlund

Death is just the beginning... There is a great scene in the movie *The Lord of the Rings, The Return of the King* where Pippin looks up at Gandalf with fear in his eyes and says, "I didn't think it would end this way." Gandalf responds, "End? No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path. One that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass... then you see it!" Gandalf looks away from Pippin toward a beautiful distant land, and Pippin, no longer afraid, says, "What? Gandalf? See what?" Gandalf, still looking at the distant land says, "White shores... and beyond. A far green country, under a swift sunrise." Relieved, Pippin says, "Well, that isn't so bad." Gandalf looks back at Pippin, smiles and says, "No... no, it isn't."

In life under the sun, like ants we are all marching to a common destination: death. But did you know, death is just the beginning? It is not something to be feared. In fact, the Word of God speaks of different kinds of death, and in each case, death is just the beginning. First, when we receive Christ and make Him Lord and Savior, He puts our sin to death, and we begin a new life in Christ. Second, when we understand that if God is for us, and no one can stand against God, then we can put our fears to death and live a full life free of fear. Finally, every follower of Jesus who dies a physical death will begin eternal life with Jesus in heaven. The picture of white shores and a green country from *The Lord of the Rings* is a beautiful picture of what it will be like when we die. But let me tell you, this picture pales in comparison to what happens to every follower of Jesus who dies. 2 Corinthians 5 teaches us that when we are absent from the body, we will be in the presence of Christ. Pause for a moment and consider this... when the journey

of this life ends, if you are a follower of Jesus, you will immediately enter His presence, you will immediately enter the presence of the Maker and Creator of the entire universe. As the song says, "I can only imagine."

Have you decided to follow Jesus? What are you waiting for? God loves you so much that He gave His only Son for you. Today is your day of salvation! Give your life to Jesus. Believe in your heart and declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and begin a new life with Him today. When you give your life to Jesus, the promise in Romans 8:35-39 is yours

Who shall separate  
us from Christ's love?  
**NO ONE!**

forevermore. Take a moment to consider this promise:

"Who shall ever separate us from Christ's love? Shall suffering and affliction and tribulation? Or calamity and distress? Or persecution or hunger or destitution or peril or sword? Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us." (Romans 8:35 & 37)

The question here is rhetorical. Who shall separate us from Christ's love? NO ONE! And if we go through affliction and troubles, which we all do, still amid the troubles, God's love for us is there, and He gives us power through Christ to overcome! Consider the language here. God promises that not only will you overcome, not only will you conquer, in Christ you already have. You ARE more than a conqueror. The words here do not indicate this is something you are working your way toward. No, the words here mean, in Christ

and because of His love for you, you already are more than a conqueror. In Christ you already are empowered to have complete and utter domination over the thing or things that you think, or feel, might separate you from His love.

These thoughts we have and these emotions we have that make us believe the lie that somehow God can't or won't love us are rubbish. GOD LOVES YOU ABSOLUTELY AND COMPLETELY! You must choose to put the lies of the enemy about who you are behind you. Submit to God, resist the devil and he

must flee from you. (James 4:7)

Remember, when you gave your life to Christ, He gave you a new beginning! And as Paul closes out Romans 8 (and I agree with Paul), "I am persuaded beyond doubt, I am absolutely sure, that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39) The promises here in Romans 8 are yours in Christ Jesus our Lord. They are irrevocable and powerful promises God gave you when you received His love in the person of Jesus Christ His Son. In that moment, your old self died, and the death of your old self was just the beginning. Keep looking up! Your best days are ahead of you in Christ forevermore!

# Solution for caring

## Friend of God | by Jessie Westlund

*I am a friend of God*

*I am a friend of God*

*He calls me friend*

*Who am I that You are mindful of me?*

*That You hear me when I call,*

*Is it true that You are thinking of me?*

*How You love me*

*It's amazing, so amazing,*

*I am a friend of God*

*God Almighty*

*Lord of Glory,*

*You have called me friend*

These are the lyrics to a song we sang several years ago. They made me think about how I experience a friendship with God when I can't touch, see, and have a meaningful discussion with Him. This thought has sent me on a journey to better understand how to hear, feel, see, and experience friendship with God. I prayed, "Jesus, I want to see you, I want to hear you, I want to understand what you are saying to me in the circumstances I face. I long to have the friendship you promise in your Word." In my journey, I have learned that God speaks to me, but I don't always recognize His voice or understand what He is saying. The first time I heard His promptings in my heart was when I

was four years old at a Billy Graham meeting. People were going forward to ask Jesus in their hearts. I sensed a deep desire to do the same. My mom prayed with me and from that time on there has been an awareness of His love. Even when I rebelled as a teen, He loved me. I just didn't value His love and what it meant to have a friend in the Almighty Lord. Now, a lifetime later, I have experienced Jesus reaching out to me. He speaks through the Word. It is amazing that the God of the universe is always thinking of me and calls me friend. Each day as I spend time in His Word, I feel His love, even in difficult times. There are two voices I hear. One voice tries to entice me to worship anything but God or comes with a lie to introduce useless fear. Christ's voice comes to me through Scripture, songs, beauty that comes from difficulty and gently draws me to Himself. I journal what I think He is revealing related to my circumstances. Frequently, I go back and read what I've written and see how He has worked beyond what I could have imagined.

God is always speaking in many ways. It may be in a refreshing breeze blowing across my cheek or in a horrible storm through which I am reminded of His power. Frequently, I wake up in the morning and a word will come

to me. As I go about my day I am reminded of the word. It is relevant to what I face in the day. An example of a word is "intentional." On frantic days, I often hear His soft voice whispering, "be intentional." When I ignore it, the day remains frantic and I make mistakes. Lately, I have had the impression that people really need encouragement and prayer. I sense Him seeking me out to love others, tell them Jesus loves them and pray for them. He is intimate and He often gives me Scripture to pray over them. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." (John 15:13-16) One of the greatest joys I have is when I get to watch people experience answered prayer.

How is your friendship with God?

Overwhelmed by God's Love from page 1

During my recovery, I had a great deal of time to be still before the Lord. I had an experience that is hard to explain in words. I was overwhelmed by the love of God. I had a deep sense of His grace, compassion, and mercy. I knew I was loved. I was told on 12/21/2021 that I "may not leave the hospital." I was not afraid of what I was facing. I knew God had a purpose in it. Though it was hard, I told Jessie when I got home from the hospital that I was thankful for Covid. God was using my illness to draw me nearer to Him and to truly understand His great love He had, not only for me, but for all His children.

When I was in the hospital, my son asked if I needed anything. I asked him to bring my Bible to me. I love the entire Bible, but I was drawn to read 1 John and spend time meditating on God's love even during difficulty. I have written a book on hearing and discerning the voice of God. In one chapter, I wrote about how God uses illness to speak to us. We may not like it, but that is how much God wants to teach us of His love and wants to draw us close to Him. We live in a noisy and busy world and He says, "Be still and know that I am God." I was still and can't express how much I experienced His love through a difficult time. He is amazing.

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:11

# Solution for the future

## Watch & Pray | by Daniel Westlund

A new nationwide survey by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University (Dr. George Barna) revealed that only 37% of all Christian pastors possess a Biblical worldview. In II Timothy 3:1,5 we are told, “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will have a form of godliness but denying its power.”

In Amos 8:11 God warned His people that “The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “When I will send a famine through the land – not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.”

Based on the findings by George Barna, it appears this is happening, and lives are being affected spiritually. We seem to be living in a time of famine of hearing from and living by the Words of the Lord. Man, being created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), is by nature a creation meant to worship. The world is filled with various objects and forms of worship. In Second Thessalonians 2:1-12, we are given a description of a falling away and the coming of the man of

lawlessness who will be worshiped. It will be a form of godliness, but it will deny the power of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

We wonder why all the sickness, youth are troubled and confused about sexuality, youth killing youth, increasing violence, famine in the world, wars and rumors of wars, our schools are teaching what is wrong to be right and what is right is wrong. It is because God’s Word is not recognized and taught as the foundation for life. Why, when it is the foundation for hope? We are in a war, but He has overcome. Read II Timothy 3-15, II Thessalonians 2:1-12 and Revelation 13. Learn to watch (be alert) and pray.

What do you believe? Carefully consider everything you hear. Is it based on a Biblical worldview? Learn to live and walk with God, read His word, spend time every day with Jesus. Be still and know God. As you surrender your life, your time, and what you listen to determine to walk with Jesus, His Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13-15)

## Bulletin Board

- **Solution for Life has a new phone number:** 371-319-5838
- **New Women’s Advisory Team** is forming and praying for our women’s ministry to reach out to all generations with the message: ‘Your Story Matters to Christ.’
- Dan’s new study is **Angels (Angels ministering spirits)**. He is available to teach, meet with small groups or talk one on one.

### Message from Dan

Great change is coming. Do not focus on your circumstances, but on Christ. Daily tell Jesus you love Him and trust Him fully. He will never leave you or forsake you.

Blessings in Jesus’ name,

Dan

## Stay Tuned In | by Kristen Alewine

I bought my daughter a bedtime devotional book called *You Can Rest: 100 Devotions to Calm Your Heart and Mind* by Katy Boatman (I would definitely recommend it if you have a pre-teen daughter). She had been having a tough time feeling anxious at night and it was keeping her from getting the sleep she needs. The first night she had it she brought it downstairs to my office and was telling me about something she’d read. The devotional is divided by topic and she had chosen one concerning worrying about the future. Her eyes were bright and she was so excited as she explained to me about how God doesn’t ask us to jump ahead into the future, but to just be here, in this moment with Him, and that He’s got the future covered because He already knows what’s coming. You’d think she had just

found hidden treasure. I don’t share this because I think God’s promise to take care of our futures will be news to you, but precisely because I think it WON’T be. We get so used to hearing things like this repeated over years of Bible studies and sermons that we start to tune it out. But to see the wonder of such an amazing reality reflected back to me in the eyes of my daughter caused me to pause and remember just how significant God’s promises are whether I’m hearing them for the first time or the 483rd. I would challenge all of us, myself included, the next time we see a bumper sticker or a Facebook meme with a truth that we’ve known for years, not to gloss over it, but to take a minute and let the weight and beauty of it renew our spirits and energize us to live the lives God has called us to.